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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: microsoft settlement

I think it's outrageous that MS has been allowed to bully their way to the top for all these many years. Their requirements to place their browser on the desktop at the expense of Netscape, earlier requirements to bundle Office with machines or not get the latest OS on time, the original complaints that third party developers wouldn't get info about the latest OS until MS had the market wrapped up with their own offerings are all textbook examples of MS promoting and protecting their monopoly in the OS and now the browser market.

As much as I dislike the government sticking their noses where it doesn't belong, it is the only way to protect the public when the free market has been manipulated and subverted as it has by Microsoft. At the very least they should have their business highly regulated and possibly broken up into competing branches. I recommend separate companies for OS and applications. Gates, Balmer, et al should not be able to sit on both boards. The government should constantly monitor the business decisions by both companies (a nonvoting member on each board perhaps) and report back monthly to the Justice Department. As for MS offering to donate used machines and their software to poor schools . . . what a crock! It makes absolutely no sense to let them use a punishment to move into the education market and make even more schools dependent upon their software.

Please help to repair the free market place and slow down the MS juggernaut!!

Lane Hoback